

Peterson, William

[Principal, McGill University]

Oct 1914 - April 1915  
Arch



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# Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Telegraph

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS



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J. McMILLAN, Gen. Supt., Winnipeg, Man.  
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R. N. YOUNG, Supt., Calgary, Alta.  
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D. H. BOWEN, Supt., Sudbury, Ont.  
W. MARSHALL, Supt., Toronto, Ont.  
F. J. MAHON, Supt., Montreal, Que.  
W. M. GODSOE, Supt., St. John, N.B.

**JAS. KENT,**  
Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

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M 62 RA K 26 1048AM

MONTREAL Q OCT 12/14

PRRESIDENT FALCONER

UNIVERSITY TORONTO

TORONTO ANT

PROVISIONAL REGIMENT AUTHORIZED AND FORMED INCLUDING

MEN NOT YET ENLISTED FOR ACTIVE SERVICE NO INFORMATION

YET ABOUT SECOND CONTINGENT MAY SUGGEST LATER ON

CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES BATAILLON

PETERSON



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

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PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE.

22nd October 1914

President Falconer,  
The University,  
Toronto, Ont.,

My dear President,

Following on your recent telegram of enquiry in regard to our provisional regiment, I beg now to report that some of the Militia Authorities would wish now to put the definite question to our men, whether they will enlist immediately for active service. This would involve, for those who enlist, going at once into barracks at the High School; and in the case of undergraduates, giving up their studies.

The need for men is, of course, so obvious that I do not wonder that this suggestion should be made. It will result, I understand, after the necessary drill here, in our men being drafted in batches to England for the rest of their training. Many have gone, as you are aware, already, and it may be that there are many undergoing drill at present who would wish also to go without delay.

On the other hand the view of this University, so far, has been that we should give our students and graduates opportunities of drilling with the view to going all together in the Spring. It was with this idea in mind that I replied to your telegram that we might, later on, suggest a universities battalion. Do you think that idea would be feasible, and would you co-operate in raising it? A letter from Principal Gordon shows that Queen's would,



President Falconer -2 22/10/14

in all probability, be prepared to join. Dr. Gordon also suggests a conference of the representatives of the military organizations of the Canadian universities. What would you say to that? I am inclined to answer the question which is being put to me by saying that I am now in correspondence with the heads of other universities with the view of ascertaining whether they would send representatives to a conference that might be held to discuss the possibility of a battalion formed exclusively of university men. Among us we should be able to raise 1,000 men. It might be convenient if the conference were held in Ottawa. If you were to suggest next week-end I think we could make effective arrangements for it, Saturday 31st.

Yours very truly,

*W. S. Peterson*

Principal



October 23rd, 1914

Principal Peterson,

McGill University, Montreal.

My dear Principal:

I think that possibly the best answer I can give you is to state what we are doing. We have received authorisation from Ottawa to establish an Officers Training Corps, the details as to numbers not being yet determined, and equipment to be deferred until after the departure of the second contingent. We have, however, stopped laboratories and lectures after four in the afternoon, and already we have over 1200 undergraduates being drilled. Possibly the authorities will not authorise a greater strength than 700 or 800, but we will keep drilling all winter through in the hope that by the spring we may have men more or less prepared for whatever is deemed best.

I have spoken with a number of high military authorities and they all agree that we can render the best service by preparing our students for positions as commissioned or non-commissioned officers. In that case most of them would not serve in a university regiment. In fact my military advisers here agreed that to send the ordinary student as a private, when there are such multitudes to enlist as privates, would be rather a waste of good material. On the other hand, there will probably be a great many students who will enlist as privates, and we shall be quite glad to co-operate with the other Universities in endeavouring to secure for such men the chance of going with other university men as a fighting unit. It seems to me that we shall not be able to tell for some time how many men would be



desirous of going say in the spring as privates. Until we get that information perhaps a conference is unnecessary. It will be, I am afraid, inconvenient for me to attend a conference much before the middle of December, as I have to go West very shortly. Do you not think that by correspondence we could get our material ready and get our data so that when we meet in conference with the militia authorities in Ottawa we should know somewhat more definitely what we can offer and what we should ask? If the militia authorities are of opinion that a Canadian Universities' unit should be sent to the front in the spring, we shall of course be glad to co-operate with the other Universities in making arrangements for all who wish to go. As I said, however, my advisers are of opinion that our best service will be in supplying officers of all grades for the various detachments.

I am sorry that I was not able to get down to Brown last week. Sickness in our family prevented my going. I am sure that you had a pleasant time. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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October 28th, 1914

Principal Peterson,

McGill University,

Montreal, 2.

Dear Principal Peterson:

I have your telegram with regard to the conference with the Militia Department at Ottawa on Saturday, and in accordance with it I am asking Colonel Lang and Colonel Fotheringham, two of our professors, to represent us at the conference. I think that from our point of view it is rather premature, but possibly something may arise out of the discussion that will open up the way for the future, and of course our men will desire to co-operate in every way in our power.

Yours sincerely,

President.





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Z. A. LASH, President.

HEAD OFFICE : TORONTO

GEO. D. PERRY, General Manager.

REC'D No.	FROM	SENT BY	REC'D BY	TIME	CHECK
12	m		e	1-10	12

From Montreal Tue Oct 27 191

To Pres. Toalson

The University Toronto

Informed conference

arranged militia

department Ottawa

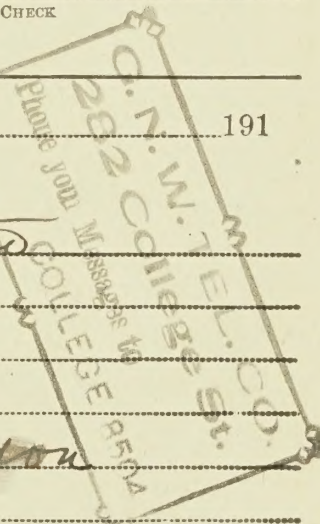
Saturday noon suggest you

send representatives

Peterson.

Direct Connection with WESTERN UNION TEL. CO.

CABLE SERVICE to all the World.





December 1st, 1914

Principal Peterson,

McGill University,

Montreal, 2.

My dear Principal Peterson:

I have just returned from Alberta and find a good deal of business to be attended to. I would like to consult with Professor Lang and Professor Fotheringham as well as my Military Committee before saying anything definite as to the conference of Universities at Ottawa with regard to the present military situation. As you know we have our regular Universities' Conference with regard to matriculation questions at that time and if we make our arrangements to have a conference at Ottawa the two conferences ought not to clash. I shall be glad to write to you on this matter in a few days.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



December 16th, 1914

Principal Peterson,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

My dear Principal:

I have considered pretty carefully the proposal that you made of the Universities holding another conference regarding the question of organised assistance for the present war. It seems to me now that we have our Officers' Training Corps organised that this matter should be taken up by the Officers in control of the various units at the different Universities with the Militia Council, and I am sure that Colonel Lang will be willing to co-operate in any way within his power. I have talked to him about the matter and his feeling is that it should be left to the Commanding Officers.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



FEBRUARY 12th, 1918

Principal Address,

Public University, Montreal.

by near friends:

1951 年 7 月 27 日 星期日

1. 1

Yours sincerely,

1914-15-16



February 17th, 1915

Principal Johnson,

Will University,

Albany.

My dear Principal:

On Saturday morning I went to the office  
of the Vice-President of the University, Mr. [Name], and if I  
cannot do I will see that we are represented.

I [Name] with great pleasure to my  
visit to [Name]. It was a very pleasant day indeed,  
and I will write to Mrs. Johnson [Name] and for her  
kindness to [Name] to be for the day.

Very sincerely,

Respectfully,



March 15/11, 1910

Principal Peterson,

McGill University,

Montreal, Q.

Dear Dr. Peterson,

I have a letter to-day from Miss (Mrs) Macdonald asking whether we can arrange a reading course in questions of our faculty for Dr. Sarsfield. We have already had two lectures from him here, one at the Canadian Club, and another at the University. He said he was going to return but did not state anything very definitely as to his return in return. Do you know anything definitely about his work, and have you undertaken anything on his behalf? I should be glad to hear from you by return. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

Frederick.

March 30th, 1915

Principal Patterson,

McGill University,

Montreal.

My dear Principal Patterson:

I am sorry that Friday, the 26th day, does not suit you. It was chosen because in the previous week we have our International and the Royal Society, came on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd of May. Also the Council specially called on the 24th of the next week at Kingston, and some day we must go to it. Will it be impossible for you to change your date? If so is impossible, what would you think of Tuesday, June 1st?

Yours sincerely,

President.



April 15th, 1915

Principal Peterson,

McGill University,

Montreal.

My dear Principal:

Just a word to congratulate McGill  
on the excellent War Contingent Supplement of the "McGill  
Daily" of which I received a copy last week. It is  
most creditable to those who have had it in charge, and  
will I am sure do a great deal of good to the University.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

April 29th, 1915

Principal Peterson,

McGill University, Montreal, Q.

My dear Principal Peterson:

I shall be glad to go to Ottawa to confer with Sir George Foster and the other representatives of the Universities. How would Saturday, the 6th of May, suit you? Perhaps I may ask one or two of our staff to come with me.

Mr. Murray, the Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, wrote to me asking to be allowed to be present when we were conferring with the Minister. I told him that personally I saw no difficulty in the way, but that he would have to correspond with Sir George Foster himself.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.



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**JAS. KENT,**  
Manager Telegraphs, Montreal.

P 69 RA K 14

MONTREAL Q MAY 31-15

PRESIDENT FALCONER

UNIVERSITY TORONTO ONT

BEST THANKS FOR KIND INVITATION BUT MUST LEAVE TOMORROW

NIGHT SHALL GO KING EDWARD

PETERSON

1039AM

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